

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of relaying traffic from a source to a targeted destination in a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

——providing a first and at least one second network adapter each providing access to a network having a plurality of destinations,

——providing a first routing table which defines ~~at least~~ a first default destination individually associated with the first network adapter, such that the first network adapter is listed as an interface for the first default destination; [[and]]

providing at least one second routing table defining a second default destination, wherein the second default destination is individually associated with the at least one second network adapter, such that the second network adapter is listed as an interface for the second default destination; and

——relaying said traffic from the source to the targeted destination using one of the network adapters, wherein the step of relaying further comprises selecting one of the first or second routing tables, such that by selecting the first routing table, the first

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network adapter is accessed as a default destination route, and by selecting the second routing table, the second network adapter is accessed as a default destination route.

~~said method comprising the further step of providing at least one second routing table defining a second destination, wherein the second destination is individually associated with said at least one second network adapter, and wherein the step of relaying includes a step of selecting one of the first and second routing tables, and wherein the first and second routing tables define said first and second destinations as default destinations, which are used for traffic relay in any default situation.~~

2. (canceled).

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the first and second routing tables comprise specific destinations pointing to another routing table, preferably by means of a next hop entry.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing network adapters includes providing real network adapters and providing at least one virtual network adapter, wherein each virtual network adapter is individually associated with a third routing table.

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5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the third routing table includes next hop and interface entries pointing to at least one of the following: another routing table or a real network adapter, and wherein the step of relaying uses the at least one virtual network adapter and its associated third routing table.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a routing table is triggered by the source.

7. (currently amended): A network adapter for providing access to a network from a source, said network adapter comprising an individually associated routing table where the network adapter is listed as the interface for a default destination route for the source to access the network adapter as ~~[[a]]~~ the default destination route.

8. (original) The network adapter of claim 7, said network adapter being a virtual adapter, said individually associated routing table comprising next hop and interface entries pointing to at least one of the following: another routing table or a real network adapter.

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9. (currently amended) A client terminal comprising a plurality of network adapters for providing access to a network and a first routing table, said client terminal further comprising a plurality of second routing tables, wherein each individual network adapter is individually associated with one of the ~~first and second~~ routing tables, such that each individual network adapter is listed as an interface for a default destination of its associated routing table, and wherein the first and second routing tables define a first destination and a second destination as default destinations, which are used for traffic relay in any default situation.

10. (currently amended) A router for relaying traffic from a source to a targeted destination in a communications network, comprising a plurality of network adapters for providing access to the network and a first routing table, said router further comprising a plurality of second routing tables, wherein each individual network adapter is individually associated with one of the ~~first and second~~ routing tables, such that each individual network adapter is listed as an interface for a default destination of its associated routing table, and wherein the first and second routing tables define a first destination and a second destination as default destinations, which are used for traffic relay in any default situation.

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11. (currently amended): A system for relaying traffic from a source to a target destination in a communications network, comprising an operating system component means for connecting a source application running on a machine to a communications network, wherein the operating system component means comprises a plurality of routing tables each configured to be individually associated with one of a plurality of network adapters of said machine, and wherein each of the plurality of routing tables defines a destination as a default destination, which is used for traffic relay in any default situation, such that each individual network adapter is listed as an interface for the default destination of its associated routing table.

12. (previously presented): The system of claim 11, wherein the operating system component means further comprises a plurality of virtual network adapters, each virtual network adapter being associated with one from a plurality of third routing tables and each associated third routing table comprising next hop and interface entries pointing to at least one of the following: another routing table or a real network adapter.

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended): A computer program product embodied on a computer readable storage medium comprising computer code for implementing and

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configuring a plurality of routing tables each to be individually associated with one of a

plurality of network adapters accessible from a machine, such that each individual

network adapter is listed as an interface for a default destination of its associated

routing table, wherein the computer code is operable for relaying traffic from a source

to a target destination in a communications network, and wherein each of the plurality

of routing tables defines a destination as a ~~default~~ the default destination, which is used

for traffic relay in any default situation.

15. (previously presented): The system of claim 11, further embodied as a computer program product on a computer readable medium comprising:

computer code for connecting the source application to the communications network; and

computer code for configuring the plurality of routing tables to be individually associated with the network adapter of said machine.

16. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein each of the first and second routing tables comprise specific destinations that only point to another routing table.